

Dear Friends,

The pandemic has affected the arts and arts practitioners in many ways. We're slowly starting to recognize and respond to the fact that our work will be different from here on out.

In his compelling [ArtsJournal blog Scene Change](#), Seattle-based writer Alan Harrison made the case that our successful arts non-profits can find a great similarity with our innovative restaurants.

Many of us love that fact that Maine is becoming a kind of foodie state, where unique and interesting restaurants seem to be popping up regularly. Harrison suggests that our arts organizations could find a lot to learn in the thinking behind successful restaurants.

He points out that the successful restaurants generally take a very specific point of view.

But we might notice that many of our arts organizations really do not. As the climate for our arts and arts consumption changes, Harrison makes the case that we'd be well advised to revisit our practices.

He writes: "To wit: if you want French food, you go to a French restaurant. It's the likeliest place to get good French food, because they purport to be the expert at what they do. And if you like it, you'll go there every time you want French food.

Your nonprofit arts organization is like a French restaurant. The theater company around the corner is like an Italian restaurant. And the museum a mile away is the Chinese restaurant. When people want the expert experience that each offers, they'll support that work."

Sure, it's an oversimplification, but the message does resonate. The evidence shows that we're getting tired of our on-line existence, and we're longing for a more local sense of community. The shift has been

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predicted for years, but the pandemic might have accelerated the desire to find community where we are.

Make sure you dig in further to consider your community. Engage your community instead of just asking for money. They have so much more to offer, and by listening to them, you'll recognize that your organization has so much more to learn.

When you do that, the path through whatever our post-pandemic lives might be like as artists might become clearer. That's when your creativity and innovation can really thrive. Or, as Harrison writes: "Be the expert at what you do. Not an expert. The expert."

-David Greenham

Executive Director
Maine Arts Commission



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MAINE ARTIST FELLOWSHIP AWARDS



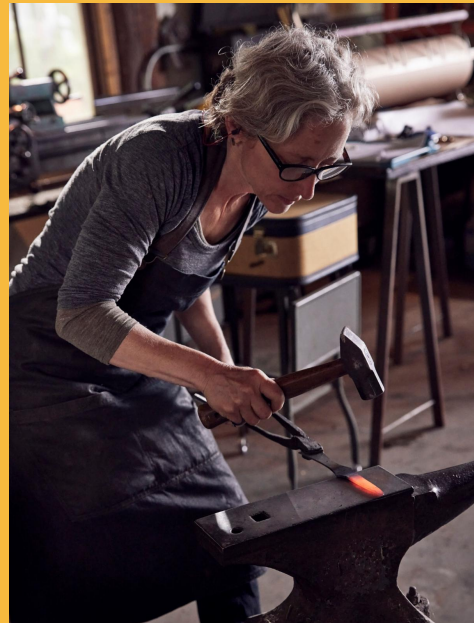
The Maine Arts Commission is thrilled to announce the recipients of the Maine Artist Fellowship awards. The merit based award recognizes artistic excellence and helps advance artistic careers across the state. The six Maine Artist Fellows are Cole Caswell, Erica Moody, Brittany Parker, Asha Tamirisa, Bobbi Tardif, and Jeri Theriault.



Cole Caswell - Visual Arts

Peaks Island

Cole Caswell is an artist whose home is tethered to an island off the coast of Maine. His work *Rise* is a photographic investigation of the coastal landscape in Maine that will be lost to sea level rise. The use of the wet-plate collodion process allows Cole to hand make each of his images while on location. The resulting glass-plate negatives are an accumulation of what it is like to be



Erica Moody - Fine Craft

Waldoboro

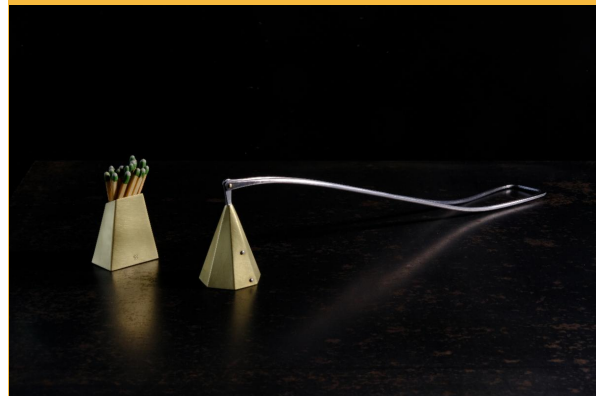
Erica Moody's current work is sculpting unique serving wares. The craft evolved from wanting to make tools that create connection, and to focus that intersection with the spirituality in sharing food. Her utensil designs are inspired by a variety of antique serving styles, traditional metal craft techniques, as well as minimal design and fabrication learned from

in a place – a tribute to a landscape that will be consumed by water and the rising ocean. The artifacts and unique marks within the hand poured negatives intrigue Cole. “As chance-based additions they visually suggest the faltering of our contemporary world.” Maybe visions from memory, a dream, or a fleeting glimpse of what is at stake as our climate changes the places we hold sacred.”



[View Cole's work here>](#)
Instagram: [@colecawell](#)

collaborations over the last 30 years with artists, architects, and designers. Erica’s process is to develop a conversation with the materials, mostly brass, copper, and steel - and create a purposeful simplicity with focused attention on human connection and haptic experience, enhanced by careful craftsmanship. Using refined and organic techniques in her craft, areas of texture emerge and become a nuanced detail that documents the process while conveying the intimate sense of time, ritual, existence and connection of the maker, user, and object.
Photo courtesy of Bryan Coppede

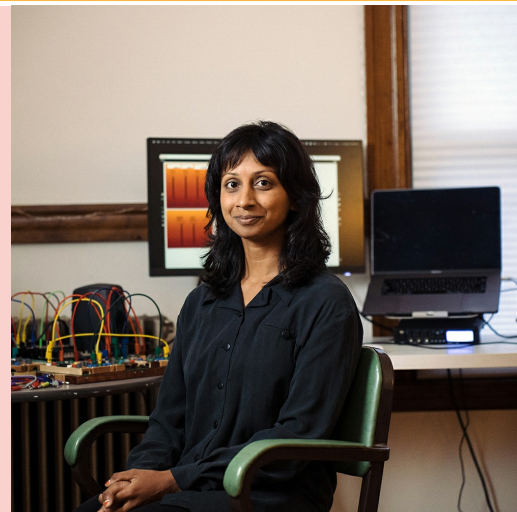


[View Erica's work here>](#)
Instagram: [@ericaemoody](#)



Brittany Parker- Performing Arts
Rockport

Brittany Parker is a Maine-based theatre and music maker. She is the creator and lead singer of Bee Parks and the Hornets, an indie pop-rock band for families, and the Education Manager for the Strand Theatre in



Asha Tamirsa - Media Arts
Portland

Asha Tamirsa works with sound, video, film, and researches media histories. Along with many colleagues, Asha co-founded OPENSIGNAL, a collective of artists concerned with the state of gender

Rockland. She is passionate about the power of art to enhance daily life in rural communities and is interested in creating works of performance that appeal to all ages. Since moving to Maine in 2013, Brittany has co-created several original productions for intergenerational audiences. Her work uses original music, puppetry, and audience participation to reimagine what it means to go to a show and engage with the magic of storytelling. Highlighting themes of empathy, equity, environmental awareness, social justice, and individuality, much of Brittany's recent work has been inspired by Maine stories, communities, and issues. "I frequently co-create with a rotating ensemble of theatre makers and musicians who share similar artistic values. The strong entrepreneurial spirit and the vibrant artistic community here inspired me to start creating my own works of performance. The development of this work is intrinsically linked to the wonderful people who live in the state – their reactions and participation at each show have forever influenced me as an artist and performer."

Photo courtesy of Cambridge Arts



[View Brittany's work here>](#)
[Bee Parks & The Hornets Website](#)

and race in electronic music and art practice. Asha moved to Maine in 2019 and has presented a site-specific video installation for Space Gallery's 2020 "ReSite" exhibition, a sound installation in Congress Square Park in 2021, a sound installation for Make Music Portland in 2022, and an artist Residency at Hewnoaks Artist Colony in 2022. She now works with the organization TECHNE. Asha has taught sound and media art at Brown University, the Rhode Island School of Design, Girls Rock! Rhode Island, and Street Level Youth Media in Chicago. Asha holds a Ph.D. in Computer Music and Multimedia and an M.A. in Modern Culture and Media from Brown University and is currently an Assistant Professor at Bates College. Asha plans to use her Maine Artist Fellowship Award to build her sound and video/film studio in Maine and will also support the release of a full-length experimental music album, which she hopes to undertake in collaboration with Maine-based visual artists and audio engineers in the coming year or two.

Photo courtesy of Peter Gumaskas



[View Asha's work here>](#)



Bobbi Tardif - Belvedere Craft

Perry

Bobbi Tardif (Belvedere Fellowship) Bobbi Tardif has always had a deep connection to the physicality of land and the important role of family. In November of 2020, Bobbi and her family moved back to her hometown of Perry in Washington County. One of her fondest childhood memories was spent playing in the spring fed stream behind her house. That is where she discovered glacial clay. She dug the clay up with her hands, formed it, molded it, squished it between her fingers, and became completely fascinated. It was the bond between material, manipulation, and self that led Bobbi to pursue being an artist. Bobbi is an arts educator who is devoted to growing visual arts programming in public education within her community. Her positive outlook, spirited energy, and genuine care for others provides her students and community with opportunities to explore art in a variety of ways, helping them see the artist within.

"Continuous learning allows me to analyze and think about my artwork in new ways, but teaching allows me to share what I have learned and



Jeri Theriault - Literary Arts

South Portland

Jeri Theriault was born and raised in Waterville, a mill town perched on the Kennebec, where she attended Sacred Heart School with other descendants of the French-Canadian millworkers who settled in the area. Her father was a barber, her mother a housewife and a bookkeeper. She studied English and classics at Colby, earned an MA in Instructional Leadership from USM and an MFA from Vermont College. She taught at Deering and South Portland High Schools for twenty years. A 1998-99 Fulbright Teacher Exchange brought her to Gymnasium Arabska in Prague. Then, in 2002 she became Chair of the English Department at The International School of Prague, a position she held for six years. Jeri's still writing about those Prague years, but Maine—her childhood and French Catholic heritage—form the most consistent threads in her writing. Her characters, grandmother and mother, girl cousins and aunts, are sometimes augmented by personae like Barbie or Demeter or Coco Chanel. The Maine Arts Commission Fellowship will fund travelling, research and residencies to support her latest project whose working

who I am as an artist with others,” says Bobbi. Knowing firsthand what strong arts programming can have on a rural community and individually, Bobbi began the construction of her studio in 2021. The studio will allow her to pursue her own artwork and offer valued art programming including ceramics. Being in Perry and examining the geology of the streams, the ecology of the woods, the oceanography of the water, and forming new discoveries with this place is pure joy.



title is “Cemetery Stories,” inspired by regular walks in Mount Pleasant and Bay View Cemeteries near her South Portland home. Her plan includes visits to several Maine graveyards, including Saint Francis Catholic Cemetery in Waterville as well as pilgrimages to Quebec and Nova Scotia to find the graves of ancestors.

View Jeri's work at:
www.jeritheriault.com



50 Percent MANP Membership Discounts to Arts Organizations



MANP Member Benefit Spotlight: Finding potential funding opportunities is top of mind for many nonprofits. One of MANP’s most popular member benefits is a deeply discounted subscription to [GrantStation](#), a searchable database of more than 7,000 active funding sources. This online database includes grant opportunities from state, private and federal sources, private and corporate foundations, and association and international funding sources. MANP members can purchase an annual subscription for \$95 - 85% off the regular cost of \$699! [Learn more about MANP's discounted grantmaking tool>](#)

Discounted MANP memberships are available for arts aligned 501c3 nonprofits with operating expenses under \$1 million, as well as any BIPOC led arts nonprofit, regardless of size. **Current and new arts aligned MANP members are also eligible for the discount.** [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more>

Annual Operating Expenses	Dues
Under \$25,000	\$100 \$50
\$25,000 to \$99,999	\$125 \$62.50
\$100,000 to \$174,999	\$165 \$82.50
\$175,000 to \$249,999	\$220 \$110
\$250,000 to \$324,999	\$250 \$125
\$325,000 to \$399,999	\$325 \$162.50
\$400,000 to \$499,999	\$375 \$187.50
\$500,000 to \$599,999	\$425 \$212.50
\$600,000 to \$749,999	\$475 \$237.50
\$750,000 to \$999,999	\$525 \$262.50
\$1M to \$2M	\$600
\$2M to \$10M	\$675
\$10M+	\$750

PERCENT FOR ART | Augusta Maine



Government office buildings aren't known for their beautiful artwork. This is where you come in!

CALL FOR ART:

Any artist who resides in Maine is eligible to submit, for purchase, existing interior artworks (not to exceed 4' x 6', with a maximum depth of 4") to be installed in the offices of the Department of Environmental Protection in the State of Maine's Ray Office Building.

The total **PROJECT BUDGET** is approximately **\$4,600** and the submission deadline is **December 12, 2022 5:00 p.m.**

SELECTION PROCESS

A Percent For Art selection committee of three members will jury submissions for the project and make final purchase recommendations to the State of Maine. Final artwork will be chosen through these criteria:

- Artistic strength as shown through vision, originality, and understanding of craft.
- Reflects the mission and vision of the State of Maine and the Department of Environmental Protection.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE>](#)

Two publicly funded Wabanaki murals installed in 2022

[Read full story by Martha Piscuskas HERE>](#)

Marissa Joly, Mi'kmaq and recent USM graduate, had never made a painting bigger than what she could fit in her car. But that didn't stop her from jumping into the process of creating a wall-size mural last spring. "I



was taking Wabanaki Language classes at school with Bridgid Neptune and Fiona Hopper,” Marissa explained. “They also work for the Portland Public School Department, and they asked if I’d like to do a mural.”

Lyman Moore Middle School, in Portland, secured a grant for a mural with indigenous themes created by a Wabanaki artist. Marissa learned quickly, with mentorship from muralist Ryan Adams who also has two murals in the building. “It took me about 35 hours total. I had to come in at night, so it was just me and the janitors,” Marissa said. Her twenty-foot mural, unveiled in June, is rich in Wabanaki imagery: the turtle represents the land and creation, the fish are the tribes, the canoe represents travel and culture.



In November, another Wabanaki-themed mural went up on the exterior of a community center in Madison, Maine. Four Directions Development Corporation, a nonprofit whose mission is to improve the social and economic conditions of the Native American tribes in Maine, along with the Wesserunsett Arts Council and the Maine Humanities Council, commissioned two Passamaquoddy artists, Kristine Gordon Moore and Ellen Nicholas from Sipayik, to create a mural related to the history of the area. “I figured that our people’s history was totally related to the area,” said Kristine. Cousins who like to make art together, they each created a triptych for the exterior depicting clan animals and ancestors in natural settings. This was also their first large scale project, but Kristine added, “I’d love to do more mural work. It suits me.”

Veterans' Art Exhibition Celebration



The arts are known to play a vital role in supporting active-duty service members and veterans in enhancing their health and wellbeing. In 2015, the Maine Legislature passed a provision declaring November 1 as Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day. The celebration honoring the veterans of the United States Armed Forces and their service includes promotion of significant contributions they made to the arts and humanities and public awareness of the talent of those veterans now working in a variety of artistic fields. To honor this day, on November 1, 2022, the Maine Arts Commission partnered with the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services, The Peace Gallery, and Quilts of Valor to celebrate veteran artists at the State Capitol Complex in Augusta.



The self-guided tour is open to the public through December 30, 2022.

Are you a craft artist living and working in Maine? Do you enjoy one-to-one learning, and are looking to expand your knowledge and skill set? The Maine Crafts Association's apprenticeship program might be the perfect fit for you. The Craft Apprentice Program (CAP) 2023 cycle is currently accepting applications.

craft apprentice program

Applications: OPEN
Deadline: December 8

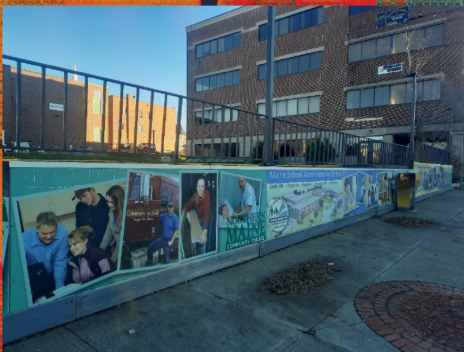


Deadline to apply is December 8, 2022.
If you're a mentor looking to bestow your knowledge onto another artist, check out the Prospective Mentor Artist Database; a match-making tool of artists that are ready and willing to be mentors. Alternatively - if you'd like to be added to this list, please fill out the form on MaineCAP.org website.

Questions? Contact lizz@mainecrafts.org



PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY DOWNTOWN PRESQUE ISLE MURAL REDESIGN PROJECT



The City of Presque Isle and Presque Isle Downtown Revitalization are seeking the services of an experienced muralist to re-design, develop, and implement a new design for a community mural on sidewalk walls located at 187 Main Street. The Downtown Revitalization Committee is committed to building a new mural that will beautify and showcase their educational partners and build pride and a sense of community in a new interactive way.

The deadline for submission of proposals is December 9, 2022, by 12:00 pm.

[Learn more about the submission process here>](#)

Maine Arts News & Opportunities

- [Artists Emergency Grants - Cycles Currently Open](#)
 - [Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts 2023 Residency Opportunities](#)
 - [Classical Uprising wins national prize for excellence in American Music](#)
 - [Call for Artists & Creatives: Back To Basics Residency in Finland](#)
 - [NEA Big Read \\$20,000 Grant Opportunity](#)
 - [VIDEO: Lille Addict Visits Lille, Maine \(en francais\) Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel](#)
 - [Call for Art: 19th Annual Bryn Du Art Show](#)
 - [Haystack Mountain School of Crafts Appoints Perry A. Price as Executive Director](#)
 - [Poet Dave Morrison releases new collection](#)
 - [The Craft Council of BC invites artists to submit work for The Earring Show](#)
 - [Shakespeare in American Communities Grant Opportunity](#)
 - [RJE Sprout Fund supporting artists with direct funds for projects that will be completed within a 12 month period](#)
 - [Applications Open for Creative Forces Community Engagement Grants](#)
 - [Hometown Grant Opportunities:\\$50,000 to invest in local communities](#)
 - [NEA Literature Fellowships in Translation](#)
 - [WEBINAR: Reflections from NEA Chair Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, with Asian Arts Initiative / Friends of the Rail Park and IDEAS xLab](#)
 - [BLOG- Making Space for Indigenous Arts Practices in Government](#)
 - [Open Calls for Artists- B.J. Spoke Gallery EXPO 42](#)
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Events & Additional Opportunities

- [Bella, an Immigrant's Tale, Saco River Theater, Dec. 2](#)
- [Artist Talk: Poet Gianluca Rizzo, Artist Deb Whitney, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland Dec. 2](#)
- [A2U2 Holiday Artisans' Market, Portland, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.](#)
- [Holiday Offerings an Annual Exhibit of Visual Arts, Richard Boyd Gallery, Dec. 2 -31](#)
- [December First Friday at Greene Block + Studios, Waterville - Dec. 3](#)
- [Jazz at the Movies: Charles Lloyd, Arrows into Infinity, Dec 3](#)
- [Fenix Theatre Company's 12th Night: Shakespeare and Song, Dec. 7-18](#)
- [Ten Buck Theatre Reads A Christmas Carol, Dec. 8-10](#)
- [La Rencontre Lunch and Entertainment, Franco Center, Lewiston, Dec. 8](#)
- [Duke Robillard performs at Saco Theatre, Bar Mills, Dec. 9](#)
- [Waterfall Arts Holiday Popup Marker, Belfast, Dec. 9 -10](#)
- [Lúnasa with special guest Dave Curley, Camden Opera House, Dec. 10](#)
- [Handel's Messiah Returns to Blue Hill, Blue Hill Bach, Dec. 10](#)
- [Designing Women Fine Art & Craft Portland Holiday Showcase, Dec. 10](#)
- [Caravan Artist Market 'Holidaze Sale', Brunswick, Dec 10-11](#)
- [Bossov Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker, Waterville Opera House Dec. 11](#)
- [More than 60 Singer to Present Holiday Joy, Franco Center, Dec. 11](#)
- [French Language Christmas Singalong, USM Franco American Collection, Dec. 14](#)
- [Kennebec Valley Youth Symphony Orchestras Winter Concert, Dec. 12](#)
- [Come one, come all to the 5th annual Joy to the Ville!, Waterville, Dec 17](#)
- [A Victorian Nutcracker: Community Performance, Merrill, Dec 22](#)
- [New England Arts Opportunities & National Opportunities](#)

